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Sub-Saharan Africa Report

FOUO No. 649

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21 September 1979

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

RACIAL INCIDENTS IN CHINA DESCRIBED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 15 Aug 79 p 28

[Article by Abel Andriarimalala: "Are the Chinese Racist?"]

[Text] Following the fights between African and Chinese students in Shanghai, racism may no longer be "a social disease peculiar to capitalist countries and the Soviet Union."

The volume of the transistor radio was too high. Through the thin wall separating the rooms in the dormitory of the Textile Industry Institute in Shanghai, a Chinese student called out: "*Black devils, stop your music!*"

Of the 300 foreign students who are there to prepare their degree in textile engineering, 80 are African and Arab: Congolese, Senegalese, Moroccan, Mauritanian, Sierra Leonean, Rwandan, Gabonese, Malian and Ugandan.

It happened during exams on 2 July 1979. One adjective too many was used! The fight was on. It was said the Chinese student had been knifed. A group of over 100 Chinese students immediately assaulted the dormitory with stones, bricks and steel rods in hand, screaming: "*Go back to fight the imperialists in Africa.*" They threw their projectiles through the windows.

Athanase Nguiyene, a 28-year old Gabonese student, related: "*Stones and bricks rained upon us and we were forced to lie down for hours on the floor, under chairs.*" During the following 3 days, from 3 to 5 July, actual pitched battles pitted African and Arab students against Chinese students. The outcome was 19 wounded for the foreign students and 24 for the Chinese. The former decided to demonstrate by boycotting classes and exams. A Congolese student declared: "*We are no longer safe.*" He was referring to the attitude of the policemen who are said to have encouraged the Chinese students to fight instead of stopping them.

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On 18 July, African and Arab students in Peking organized a demonstration as a gesture of solidarity with their fellow countrymen in Shanghai. Along their route, they displayed banners reading: "Down with racism. We want to go home." "We are fed up with being beaten up." "We no longer want to be painted with ink." The latter referred to a Peking student who poured a bottle of India ink over a light-skin Malian saying: "You are not black enough." Then, the Africans handed a petition to Abderrahim Harkett, ambassador of Morocco and dean of the African diplomatic corps in Peking. He promised to pass it on to their respective embassies which intervened and were able to convince their nationals to return to class and complete their studies.

Today the situation seems to have returned to normal. However, it is not necessarily so. The seed has been sowed: "There is racial discrimination in China." It is surprising in a country which professes to be a friend of Third World peoples and does its utmost to win them as allies. Moreover, one of its very first initiatives was to offer study-in-China scholarships in science and technology: medicine, architecture, engineering. The first to be surprised were the Chinese leaders themselves who were led to examine their own conscience, the very leaders who had always believed and preached: "Racism is a sickness peculiar to capitalist countries and the Soviet Union." Their reactions were unexpected to say the least. Instead of trying to hush up the affair, they counterattacked and accused the African students of provocative behavior, drunkenness and lack of respect toward Chinese girls. The permanently tense situation is mostly due to the latter accusation.

Three days prior to the Shanghai incidents, two young Chinese girls accompanied by black students were abused by some fellow countrymen who pulled their hair and screamed at them: "Why are you going out with Blacks?"

Deng Xingming, a high foreign affairs official, gave the following explanation: "Chinese are not racists (...). However, our countrymen are not used to foreigners, especially Blacks." Yes, but John Robert, a Ugandan student, was held in a police station for 6 hours for having "insulted" a young Chinese lady, meaning, for having courted her.

Furthermore, the expulsion (on 7 July) of a young Mauritanian whom Chinese authorities charged with rape, is wrapped in mystery. The African students deny the charge. Would 250 black students scattered in Peking, Nan Xing, Shanghai and Zhinghua have been enough to upset the old tradition of an "inhabitated" China with a "village mentality?" One would be tempted to believe so. The clash between the legendary African impetuosity and the proverbial Asian calm can only create sparks. When placidity is changed into wrath, it gives birth to irretrievable gestures and words.

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Take as an example these young Chinese students who, noting that, to all appearances, the Africans were better dressed and housed than they were, screamed at them: "*Black devils, you live by the sweat of the Chinese workers,*" thus "spontaneously" referring to the 20 million unemployed in China.

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INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

GUINEA TO JOIN OMVG--According to a communique issued following a special board meeting of the OMVG (Organization for the Development of the Gambia River, Senegal and Gambia members) the way was cleared for Guinea to join the group. Guinean participation, which was agreed on in principle, was needed to enable the organization to realize its plan to build three dams on the river. One of these will create a man-made lake in Guinea. The board also retained its plan to build a bridge-dam at Yelintenda in Gambia. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Aug 79 p 2384]

CUBAN PRESENCE JUSTIFIED--Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere justified the Cuban intervention in Angola during a 10 August press conference. "If the Cubans had not helped the Angolans throw out the South Africans, Angola would have been turned into a bantustan," he declared. "I appreciate and will continue to appreciate the Cuban assistance." However, he admitted that all African countries did not share this opinion on Cuba's role in Angola. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2347]

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ANGOLA

BRIEFS

BRAZILIAN DENIAL--The Brazilian minister of foreign affairs categorically denied that Brazil acted as an intermediary in the rapprochement between Angola and the German Federal Republic. Brazil "in no way participated in the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bonn and Luanda, even though we became aware long ago of the FRG's intention to normalize its relations with Angola," Bernardo Pericas, the spokesman of the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared. The Brazilian government, he added, knew, on the other hand, that the main obstacle to normalization was the existence of the OTRAG base in Zaire, which was considered by Angola as a threat. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Aug 79 p 2403]

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BENIN

DISPARITY BETWEEN IDEOLOGY, PRACTICE NOTED

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 8 Aug 79 pp 22, 23

[Article by Abdelaziz Dahmani]

[Text] Seen from the sky during the rainy season, Cotonou, wedged in between lagoons and the ocean, resembles a piece of cheese with holes full of water. But--wonder of nature! One ray of sunshine is enough to dry up the streams which groove the poorly asphalted streets. With its low houses, the capital of Benin looks like an old-fashioned city, not very inclined to largeness or great projects such as the construction of a major 250-room hotel or a second bridge over an arm of the lagoon separating the two "banks" (that is, the two districts).

This old-fashioned appearance has nothing forbidding about it. Soon enough, moreover, one is captivated by the people of that country, one of the poorest yet most self-respecting of west Africa. This self-respect is very striking, and in every look one can sense as much intelligence as pride.

However, as soon as one turns on the radio or one of the rare TV stations, a militant, if not frenzied, lyricism is displayed, which explains perhaps this pride and this self-respect. But how sad it is in its excesses of language. In this type of quizotic struggle against a nameless imperialism, against feudalism, the bourgeoisie, neocolonialism, enemies from within and without, the "invincible weapon" is Marxism-Leninism.

But it is a Marxism which does not wish to be identified with any established school of thought. In Benin, one would like to be friends with the Chinese as well as the Russians. The city's rare kiosks offer a wide selection of the works of Henver Hodja, Kim Il-song, Stalin, Mao and Lenin...But these kiosks are right next to a vast array of all the brands of whiskey, champagne and cognac which are among the cheapest in the world. Foreign newspapers are likewise rare, because they are heavily controlled. But what is also odd is that they are right next to the powerful Japanese or Korean radios which can pick up all the stations in the world without the least control over them.

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Sold very inexpensively, like the hi-fi sets, these radios are often smuggled in by the black marketeers who conduct a heavy secret traffic with Nigeria--traffic that no one has been able to check.

Even at the home of the president of the republic, there is no escaping the cult of Stalin, Mao, Lenin and Marx. Large portraits of those masters of thought adorn the reception hall where, on the evening of June 27, President Matthieu Kerekou held a gala dinner party for 500 guests in honor of the tenth summit meeting of OCAM (Common African and Mauritian Organization). Such a display of lavish dress, fine porcelain and elegant fare could make even the highest courts turn green with envy.

Benin is full of contradictions. In a country which claims to be Marxist, private commerce is king. Due to the proximity of large, prosperous Nigeria, that is its main source of wealth. But those contradictions remain superficial. In reality, Benin, not at all rich in mining resources, manages its affairs well--some rare digressions notwithstanding. It is a trustworthy country which scrupulously respects its financial commitments, tolerates inflation well, is little inclined to prestigious operations, and which Marxism serves mainly as a cover-up for its poverty. Despite all appearances, its harsh language and continual imprecations, it also has a considerable respect for human rights.

At present, there are only 24 political prisoners who, although they may not have an easy life, are not treated poorly. Even the participants in Captian Assogba's abortive 1975 uprising, who had been condemned to death, were not executed. The only exception was the bodily elimination, in that same year, of Michel Aikpe, minister of the interior, who was "discovered unclothed in the company of the wife of the head of state," and who was killed, while making his getaway, for "adultery." The memory of that episode is still alive in people's minds. Was it just by accident that, during the plenary summit of OCAM, Cocotiers, a fashionable theatre in Cotonou near the president's house, was showing the film "Who is Sleeping With my Wife?" followed by "The Shooter?"...In that respect, one might find it astonishing that, in this country of great ideological austerity, movie theatres show only low-grade karate or spy movies which delight the rare Soviet and Cuban volunteers.

Since Benin is a poor country, it does not attract the socialist countries very much. There are more Swiss volunteers than Cuban ones. The new bridge at Cotonou, which is the main construction site in the city, built to alleviate the congestion of the Dantokpa district, is the work of a U.S. company from North Carolina. As a compensation, the North Koreans have built two large public squares--the Martyrs' Square and the Red Star Square, both of which contain the statue of a tall soldier in bronze, flanked by a worker and a peasant woman, who is pushing back the invasion of mercenaries.

The January 16, 1977 act of aggression still haunts people's spirits, and every night controls and obstacles lock out approaches to the president's home. However, the head of state does not live there. Lieutenant-Colonel Kerekou occupies a modest villa, as he did when he directed the army's

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general staff before being chosen to act as arbiter for all the factions of the soldiers who took control in October 1972.

The Kerekou regime has thus been in power for 7 years, a record for the former Dahomey, which saw eight coups, five of which succeeded, five constitutions and ten presidents, some of whom are still under house surveillance. Does this political instability justify the nickname, "Latin Quarter of Africa," which has been given to that country? The title irritates and flatters the Beninese at the same time. It irritates them, because many of the country's managerial personnel are contributing to the development of many other countries, while Benin is deprived of the benefit of their intelligence and abilities. It flatters them because all of those successive brain washings, if there were and are washings, have preserved for the people of Benin their sense of moderation and self-respect.

In Benin, there is talk and there are facts. The example of the latest of Guinea's "deviations" by Sekou Toure has further emphasized the rift between words and reality.

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CAPE VERDE

BRIEFS

COMMISSION WITH BRAZIL--The first meeting of the joint Brazil-Cape Verde commission took place from 8 to 10 August in Mindelo on the island of Sao Vicente. During the course of this meeting, several aspects of the cooperation between the two countries, such as maritime transports, technical and professional training, agriculture and health were reviewed. The Brazilian delegation was headed by Joao Clemente Baena Soares, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Cape Verde delegation by Herculano Vieira, minister of transportation and communications. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2330]

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CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

PRESENT CALM DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY PRECARIOUS

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 3 Aug 79 p 2140

[Article by F.G.: "A Precarious Calm at Bangui"]

[Text] Bangui is calm. The low water period, lasting until 15 July, had reduced river traffic on the Ubangi. Centra-Hydro company, now 40 percent private, attributes the oil shortage which is again striking the Central African Empire during the past month, to this factor. Public authorities have recently announced that close to 60,000 tons of fuels will travel the river from now to the end of the year, if all goes well. But at Brazzaville, stocks are quite low, a result of the CFCO's (Congo-Ocean Railways) recent difficulties. On the other hand, the financial contention between Hydro-Congo, the Congolese supplier, and Centra-Hydro, is not making things easier. The director general of the Central African company, J. -J. N'Goma, is currently abroad. It hardly seems feasible that supplies from Cameroon, via tank trucks, will resolve the crisis.

And this could start up political agitation again, which had been calmed only with difficulty. Government employees have finally been paid, thanks to financial aid from Libya, it's said. Recent strikes in the health sector show the persistence of latent dissatisfaction.

The shortage of motor fuels, especially gasoline, endangers business. The forestry sector is already affected. The bakeries are threatening to close down. Cessation of industrial activity would provoke massive unemployment and then civil disorder.

At the end of July the government organized municipal elections as promised at the beginning of the year. The results from eight fully enfranchised communities (Bangui, Bossangoa, Bouar, Mbaiki, Bangassou, Bambari, Berberati and Carnot) were officially tallied at 95 favorable votes for MESAN (Movement for Social Emancipation in Black Africa), the sole party. Legislative elections should take place next September 23.

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But Central African opposition movements abroad have regrouped. Four movements (FLO [Ubangi Liberation Front], FPO, ANECA [expansions unknown] and MPIC [People's Movement for Central African Liberation]) have recently signed a common platform. According to some sources, armed opposition is currently being organized in the northern Congo. The former prime minister, Ange Patasse, who represented himself at Paris on 31 July as the "commander in chief of the liberation forces of Central Africa" has announced that a recruiting office has been opened in France to lead to their country those Central Africans wishing to fight against the imperial regime. The fact that the conclusions of the African inquiry commission into the massacres of children had not been published by the time of the OAU summit at Monrovia (in which the Emperor Bokassa had not participated) should not permit the inference that the affair has been buried. The report of the commission has been referred to the chiefs of state to whom it had been destined and the silence which has followed tends to confirm the affirmations of Europe 1: African jurists will corroborate the opinion of Amnesty International without acknowledging any personal participation in the massacres on the part of the emperor.

The Central African Social and Economic Council, which met in Bangui at the end of June, has examined the "measures promoting child welfare" and its president, Jean-Christophe Makpayen, took this opportunity to say that the recent imperial ordinance on the protection of youth was an "important contribution to the International Year of the Child. This ordinance is generally considered to be aimed at counteracting world indignation at the Bangui massacres.

But this assurance proclaimed by the Central African authorities hides a profound unease. They know that in the foreign capitals, Paris, Washington and elsewhere, Bangui continues to be the object of unexpressed concern. Towards the end of July, Emperor Bokassa twice received a special envoy from President Bongo of Gabon, come to state the position of the latter on the future of the CAE. Patasse's opposition group denounced the manoeuvres by France (tending towards the creation of a regents' council), by Libya, and by Russia (replacement of the emperor by the former minister Yangogo).

At Bangui, they are trying to stop the flight of those Central Africans who feel a change in the regime is not long in coming: immigrants from CAE must, since last 14 July, obtain an authorization from the minister of the interior to pass the border. They are obliged to declare the reason for the trip, the country being visited, and the duration of the stay. These dispositions do not apply to persons on official missions, but it is not excluded, for just this reason, that some may not take advantage of this facility.

On the other hand, the members of the Imperial Guard are being trained in Libya, weapons are being supplied clandestinely by France, and mercenaries are being recruited abroad, if the opposition is to be believed.

Even should there not be a violent and brutal economic crisis provoked by the energy shortage, the Central African economy will be barely into a convalescent situation. The deeper cause behind the troubles at the beginning

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of this year lies in the disorganization of economic and commercial exchange and in the deterioration of the infrastructure. The authorities have admitted it as, in order to stimulate the economy, their program is to reinforce the private sector to the detriment of the state companies, and they have agreed to accord priority to restoring the road network and improving river communications.

But how can the economic disaster not be tied to the present state of the nation? Only the producers and buyers of coffee have obtained satisfactory results in 1978. The M'Baka minority, which has made itself detested by its heavy hand on the country, has again seized an occasion to make scandalous profits in coffee, the notoriety of which has increased hatred towards them.

The private sector generally is not immune from attacks by the opposition to the emperor. Patasse, who represents himself as a moderate, however, and who demands only the return of the republic and of democracy, last 31 July in Paris accused the Chamber of Commerce of Bangui of being behind the death of Barthelemy Boganda and the exile Abel Goumba, and to be responsible for the current situation overall.

The fall of Iran's Imperial throne, of President Somoza in Nicaragua, are not a good augury for all those regimes in the world who practice a form of authoritarian government, but without referring to Marxism or Socialism. To be sure, the situation in Africa retains its local character and there is quite a distance between spontaneous but controllable uprisings and the insurrection of an entire people against its leaders.

Nevertheless, the profound dissatisfaction of Central Africans and the unsatisfying social and economic situation of the countries which surround CAE foster the uncertainty which continues to hang over the future of this country. The secret agitation which shows through here and there, as much in defense of the regime of Bangui (or its orderly development) as for its overthrow, indicates too the extreme precariousness of the calm of these last weeks, and the approach of a denouement in Central Africa.

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CONGO

BRIEFS

NEW PETROLEUM DEPOSITS--According to a communique of the French company Elf Aquitaine, the exploratory drilling in Sendji 2, on the Pointe-Noire deep water permit (Elf Congo 65 percent, operator; Agip Recherches Congo 35 percent) has confirmed the presence of petroleum in exploitable quantities and these results are conducive to extending the dimensions of the petroleum area, which should be made more explicit by a second exploratory drilling. In view of these results, the Elf Aquitaine group, in accordance with Agip, has made the decision to develop the deposits. A second discovery has just been made on a neighboring structure, by the drilling still in progress in Senji Nord Marine I which has encountered petroleum on several levels; the tests which will be held will permit the potential of these new deposits to be defined. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 17 Aug 79 p 2282]

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EQUATORIAL GUINEA

COMMENT ON POST-MASIE STATUS OF SOCIALIST BLOC ADVISERS

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 5 Sep 79 p 19 LD

[Report by Pierre Gardel: "Dangerous Connections"]

[Text] The automobile is of Soviet manufacture, the road was built by the Chinese. It is thanks to them that you can reach Zang Ayong, in the heart of what was Francisco Masie's kingdom. The people's anger could not have been very impressive. The signs of looting remain discreet, but they are very cosmopolitan--Chinese canned food and alcohol, some Soviet champagne, Chinese cotton, Cuban disks and, again, Chinese cooks. And in the presidential Mercedes (a gift from Gabon) a Saint-Etienne manufacturer's written guarantee for a "Made in France" gun.

The security minister must have been more ideologically minded. In his damaged villa some United National Workers Party (PUNT) rules are still lying about, together with badges reserved for Central Committee members and with Cuban and North Korean magazines. That is, some maudlin propaganda extolling friendship, peace and so forth, but no theoretical work, even of an elementary nature. Some portraits hung on the walls--two portraits of Francisco Masie have ended up in the garden but those of Mao Zedong and another, unidentified, Asian leader have remained where they were. They remain the only symbol of order in a thoroughly wrecked house.

The weapons which can be seen are also of Chinese origin. However, a machinegun presented by Fidel Castro (and bearing his dedication) has also been mentioned. It appears that it was recovered by soldiers pursuing Francisco Masie, but no one has been allowed to see it. A military secret!

Guinean cities also lived in accordance with foreign models, at least if it can be said that they lived at all. Facing the Bantu Hotel in Malabo, which is being reopened, the Soviet-Guinean fishing mission is working as usual. The local movie theater is showing a Soviet movie. And state stores, which are practically the only stores open, are full

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of Chinese goods--soap, crockery, canned food and so forth. Experts and other foreigners are still here. Some Romanians are taking the air on the hotel terrace. Chinese and Cuban doctors are obviously welcome at the hospital in which sheets are being used again. In Malabo, a Chinese or North Korean is fussing around a telephone exchange in course of construction; in Bata, a Cuban is working in a trench watched by three Guineans. Not to mention French airmen who still bring in supplies for compatriots whose activities in the country it would be hard to define.

Where were they all when the coup took place? According to the new military commander in Bata, only some Romanians and Chinese were with Masie at that time. It appears that two Chinese remained with him almost until the last moment because they were unable to receive any new orders from their embassy. It seems that without physically participating in the fighting they played the role of organizers in the dictator's counterattack. These two "advisers" have now returned to their villa in Bata unmolested. Where will they be tomorrow? An anti-Soviet demonstration in Malabo has been mentioned. What is certain is that Soviets and Romanians are behaving as unobtrusively as possible but, in any case, it is hard to imagine that the peaceful Guinean people could give themselves up to anything except demonstrations of joy.

In any case, the socialist countries' involvement with the Masie regime is being assessed in various ways. Only the Chinese find favor in the eyes of former Vice President Esono Nguema because of their "genuine economic cooperation." The director of the Malabo Hospital is willing to attend Cubans, Romanians and so forth--"all decent people, but not Soviets." At the mention of Chinese advisers, a military leader who has participated in the fighting against Masie's forces looks fierce but is careful what he says. Everybody here prefers to pretend to believe that Masie is the only guilty person. Even though the Albanians are the only innocent ones.

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GUINEA

BRIEFS

OFFICIAL TO GDR--Dr Lansana Diane, the minister in charge of the People's army of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, was received by Gen Heinz Hoffmann, minister of defense of the German Democratic Republic on 16 August. The subject of the discussion was "the struggle led in common by the GDR and Guinea against imperialism, colonialism and racism." Dr Lansana Diane expressed his government's gratitude for the assistance provided by East Berlin to Conakry. The length of the Guinean minister's visit in the GDR, aimed at acquiring information on problems concerning East German defense, is not known. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2330]

DEBT CANCELLATION--Yugoslavia has canceled a \$7 million debt owed by Guinea. This was decided during the course of the visit to Yugoslavia by Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinean chief of state, from 16 to 23 July. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2331]

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GUINEA-BISSAU

BRIEFS

FRG AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION--The Federal Republic of Germany will provide Guinea-Bissau with six-10 ton boats for the transportation of agricultural products from the southern region, considered the granary of the country. Moreover, the FRG will contribute to the improvement of the structures for the distribution of agricultural products in Guinea-Bissau through the construction or repair of bridges and the construction of one road and 8 warehouses of 1,000-ton capacity each (5 in key localities in the southern part of the country and 3 in Bissau). Finally, the FRG will give Guinea-Bissau 1,600 tons of wheat in food assistance. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Aug 79 p 2386]

BRAZILIAN LOAN--Brazil has granted \$5 million to Guinea-Bissau before opening a line of credit in order to stimulate trade between the two countries. This was announced following the first meeting in Bissau of the joint Brazili-Guinea-Bissau commission, established by the friendship treaty signed between the two countries in 1978. The Brazilian delegation, headed by Joao Clemente Baena Soares, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Guinea-Bissau delegation, headed by Armando Ramos, state commissioner for trade, industry and crafts, expressed their desire to develop cooperation in the fields of cadre training, education, agriculture, information and culture, transports and tourism, and health and industry. The delegations also expressed their satisfaction concerning the results of the cooperation between their two countries. The next meeting of the joint commission will take place in Brasilia at a later date. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2330]

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KENYA

BRIEFS

HUNGARY TO CONSTRUCT HOSPITALS--It was learned on 9 August from an official source in Nairobi that Hungary will construct hospitals in various areas of Kenya at a total cost of \$.21 million. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 17 Aug 79 p 2284]

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MADAGASCAR

BRIEFS

TANZANIAN REQUEST TURNED DOWN--Madagascar refused to lend signals officers to Tanzania, which invited it to participate in the war against Idi Amin. The Antananarivo authorities felt that the war front was too distant from Malagasy bases. [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 29 Aug 79 p 22]

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DISMISSED--Following the strikes by government workers, strikes which paralyzed the administration in August, all Malagasy contract employees were fired. There are now and henceforth replaced by detached Armed Forces personnel. [Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in French 5 Sep 79 p 26]

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MOZAMBIQUE

BRIEFS

PORTUGUESE PRISONERS FREED--The second week of August was marked by the freeing of 23 Portuguese citizens imprisoned in Mozambique. They were expelled from the country and sent to Portugal, with the exception of 3 Portuguese who elected to remain in the country and work in the agricultural field. Since last March, 54 Portuguese citizens have been freed in Mozambique, but this is the first time that as many as 23 have been freed simultaneously. This action is considered by Maputo as a good-will gesture toward Lisbon. The two governments have been attempting for several years to establish good relations between the old metropolis and its former colony. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2348]

CASHEW CROP--The 1978-1979 cashew crop in Mozambique will be practically the same as the previous one, which had amounted to 76,000 tons, while authorities in Maputo had been expecting an improvement. There are approximately 90 million cashew trees in Mozambique, and 700,000 peasant families derive their income from the cultivation of this staple. At the beginning of the harvest last October, a vast psychological campaign had been conducted among the population to infuse more vigor in the upkeep of the plantations, to fight against insect plagues and to prune dry and deformed branches. It must be noted that cashew exports account for 30 percent of Mozambique's foreign receipts. This sector employs 20,000 workers in 14 local shelling factories, 7 of which were nationalized, and whose capacity is 140,000 tons. [Excerpts] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 24 Aug 79 p 2348]

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REUNION

DETAILS ON 1978 ECONOMY, TRADE GIVEN

Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 31 Aug 79 p 2405

[Excerpts] A recent bulletin of the Bank of Issue of Overseas Departments confirms that Reunionese sugar production increased to 272,600 tons in 1978 (+9 percent) as a result of irrigation and industrial modernization. Production included 59,000 hl pure rum alcohol (-5 percent), of which 40,800 hl was exported. Molasses alcohol totaled 9,700 hl.

Essence of geranium production in 1978 rose to 72 tons (+54 percent) and the goal of 80 tons could be reached in 1979. Production of essence of vetiver was 24 tons (+2 percent); its sale went to France (54 percent), Switzerland (31 percent), the United States (10 percent) and Great Britain (5 percent).

Vanilla production increased 16 percent, totaling 89 tons in 1978. Fruit growing is not yet very developed and various measures are underway to achieve significant output.

Commercial fishing totaled 990 tons valued at 15.6 million francs. South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and the USSR are presently negotiating for fishing rights in the department's zones.

Foreign trade was as follows:

	1977	1978
Imports	2,456,300,000 francs	2,659,400,000 francs
Exports	560,700,000	519,500,000
Deficit	1,904,600,000	2,139,900,000

Among 1978 exports, sugar was valued at 421 million francs, rum at 17 million and essential oils, 33 million.

Consumer inflation was 7 percent in 1978, 10.5 percent in 1977. The Interoccupational Guaranteed Minimum Wage growth rate was 14.80 percent.

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By December 1978, paper and hard currency in circulation totaled 920 million francs (+26.6 percent) and demand deposits in banks totaled 1.2 billion (+22.8 percent).

By year's end credits outstanding to the economy totaled 2.4 billion francs (+11.20 percent) for the following main sectors: housing (745 million), commerce (437 million), export production (371 million), primary industry (294 million) and public buildings-works (197 million).

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TANZANIA

BRIEFS

CANADIAN AID AGREEMENT SIGNED--Tanzania will receive from Canada aid amounting to \$31.6 million for the development over 5 years of wheat production and a research program on this crop, according to an agreement signed on 10 August in Dar es Salaam by the two governments. This project, which will be implemented by the Tanzanian National Company for Agriculture and Food, will permit the cultivation of 20,000 hectares of land and should ensure Tanzania's self-sufficiency in wheat, a communique of the Ministry of Finance and Planning indicated. Canadian aid to Tanzania has so far been concentrated in the agricultural sector as well as in transport and energy. [Text] [Paris MARCHES TROPICAUX ET MEDITERRANEENS in French 17 Aug 79 p 2284]

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END

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